

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03543 171854Z

67

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 L-02 PPTE-00

SCA-01 /034 W
----- 090249

R 171447Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8213

UNCLAS MOSCOW 3543

E.O. 11."2: N/A
TAGS: CASC (COACHMAN,TSMMA)
SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF EMMA COACHMAN

REF: STATE 651607

1. COACHMAN REPATRIATION STILL SCHEDULED MARCH 23.
EMBASSY PLANS NO ADVANCE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT AND WOULD
PREFER THAT THERE BE NO PRESS INQUIRIES UNTIL AFTER
SHE HAS IN FACT DEPARTED. FOLLOWING SUMMARY ON CASE
IS FOR POSSIBLE USE OF DEPT SHOULD THERE BE PRESS
INTEREST IN US.

2. EMMA COACHMAN WAS BORN IN PITTSBURGH IN 1894 OF
LITHUANIAN IMMIGRANT PARENTS. SHE ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOL
IN PITTSBURGH AND LIVED THERE UNTIL HER MARRIAGE IN 1915.
IN 1928 MRS. COACHMAN'S HUSBAND, A LITHUANIAN CITIZEN, WAS
HIRED AS A CONTRACT TECHNICIAN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.
THEY LEFT THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SOVIET UNION THAT YEAR,

FULLY INTENDING TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WITHIN A YEAR
OR TWO. INSTEAD, MRS. COACHMAN WAS TO SPEND THE NEXT 48
YEARS IN THE SOVIET UNION, UNABLE TO RETURN HOME
UNTIL MARCH 23 OF THIS YEAR AT THE AGE OF 80.

3. MRS. COACHMAN'S EFFORTS TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES
BEGAN IN 1933 WHEN SHE SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03543 171854Z

LEGATION IN RIGA. SHE LEARNED THEN THAT BY MARRYING A

FOREIGNER SHE HAD LOST HER US CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE
US NATIONALITY LAW THEN APPLICABLE. DIVORCED FROM HER HUSBAND,
HER ONLY RELATIVES HER PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTER IN
PITTSBURGH, SHE APPLIED FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA TO ENABLE HER
TO RETURN HOME. HER VISA APPLICATION WAS REFUSED BY THE
AMERICAN CONSUL IN RIGA, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SHE WAS LIKELY
TO BECOME A PUBLIC CHARGE. WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO,
EMMA COACHMAN RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. SHE HELD A VARIETY
OF TEMPORARY JOBS TO SUPPORT HERSELF AS SHE CONTINUED HER
EFFORTS TO RETURN TO THE US. SHE WAS SENT KAZAKHUTAN DURING
THE WAS AND WAS PERMITTED TO TRAVEL TO THE US EMBASSY IN
MOSCOW ONLY IN 1946, WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT A CHANGE IN THE
US NATIONALITY LAWS MIGHT PERMIT THE REINSTATEMENT OF
HER US CITIZENSHIP. LACKING BY THEN THE DOCUMENTATION
TO SUPPORT HER CLAIM TO US CITIZENSHIP AND UNABLE TO
LEVAE THE SOVIET UNION, SHE SETTLED IN LITHUANIA. A
COLLECTION OF 1000 RUBLES WAS TAKEN AMONG THE PERSONNEL
OF THE EMBASSY IN 1946 TO ASSIST IN HER SUPPORT AS SHE WAS
THEN AN INVALID AND UNABLE TO WORK REGULARLY. OVER THE
YEARS, AS THE EMBASSY PURSUED ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH
HER CLAIM TO US CITIZENSHIP, EMMA COACHMAN KEPT UP A
REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EMBASSY, A SERIES OF
POIGNANT LETTERS AND PERSONAL APPEALS, WRITTEN IN AN
EVER MORE SHAKY HAND. IN 1974, A US PASSPORT WAS ISSUED TO
HER AND IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL FROM THE EMBASSY AND
MRS. COACHMAN, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES GRANTED HER
PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION IN MARCH, 1975.
AN INVALID, CONFINED TO HER BED FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS,
MRS. COACHMAN WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES MARCH 23,
ON REPATRIATION FUNDS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS.
MRS. COACHMAN'S PARTENTS, Pbrothers and sister are no
longer living, but she is eagerly looking forward to
living out her years in the nursing home in New York
maintained by the Tolstoy Foundation.

STOESSEL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW03543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750093-0275
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750344/aaaabnq.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 651607
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPATRIATION OF EMMA COACHMAN
TAGS: CASC, (COACHMAN, TSMMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006